

## From the President's Workbench

Can you believe it's almost [Christmas](#) again, seems like we were just making initial preparations for the 2022/23 carving year. The AWCA Board of Directors wish to extend a "Very Merry [Christmas](#)" to all our carvers.

[Tuesday](#) night classes at Amiskwaciy Academy are going well.

I would like to welcome the new carvers that are taking Russ Mann's beginner loon carving class. The 11 students in Russ's class make it the largest beginner class in recent memory. The Board of Directors would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new carvers who have joined us this year!

Brenda's River Otter class, at Country Haven Studio, is close to being finished. Brenda will be starting up her new Eastern Bluebird class at County Haven Studio in the new year.

Thank you to our instructors, the backbone of our club, for all their preparations for this year's classes. We appreciate the countless hours spent in preparation and after class help to carvers.

*Bob Steele*  
President AWCA

## **AWCA Christmas Party**

AWCA will be hosting its Annual [Christmas Party Tuesday Dec 20](#) at 6:00 pm in the cafeteria at Amiskwaciy Academy. Tickets are \$30 and are available from Carmen Steele or Kathleen Norton. The [Christmas Party](#) (the first since Covid) will once again feature great food, prizes, and the infamous Norton Auction. To take part in the auction bring a gift that you feel someone would enjoy and others would want to steal.

## **Annual AWCA Raffle**

Our annual raffle is a very important fund raiser for the club, helps us keep our costs down and supports our annual **Images of Nature Show**. Members have historically done a great job of selling the tickets. Most of the books have been given out to members but we still have a some left – just for you. See Kathleen Norton to get your raffle books.

## **Amiskwaciy Academy - Beginner Loon Carving Class**

AWCA is currently hosting a beginner Common Loon carving class for 9 high school students at Amiskwaciy Academy. The class began in late September and will finish in mid-December. Instructors: Glenn Maber, Carmen & Bob Steele report some very sharp looking carvings.

## **Images of Nature Show and Competition 2023**

**AWCA's** 36th annual "Images of Nature Show and Competition " will be held [May 5 – May 7th, 2023](#), at the Whitecroft Community League Hall in Sherwood Park. Due to Covid - carvings completed over the past three years will be accepted. This will be an excellent opportunity for AWCA carvers to enter their Covid – Carvings and have them judged by experienced judges.

Once again, we will host the much anticipated "Garage Sale" featuring carving equipment, supplies, books, carving kits and much more. Members are encouraged to go through their carving rooms and move those unused items on to other carvers.

### **Purchase Awards - Images of Nature 2023**

\$1000 Sponsor: AWCA - Best Purchase Award Entry –  
Birds (Images of Nature Event 1)

\$750 Sponsor: AWCA - Best Purchase Award Entry Images  
of Nature Event 2

\$500 Sponsor: Cabela's - Best North American Shorebird

## **Reflections of Nature Show, Saskatoon - Results**

AWCA members had a very successful showing at Octobers **Reflection of Nature Show** in Saskatoon in. Our members entered approx. 40 carvings in support of this year's show. Our carvers did exceptionally well at all levels with numerous Category and Division ribbons. The Best of Show results have not been published as of newsletter time but here our best recollections:

### **EVENT 1**

#### **YOUTH**

1st Best of Event Xander Puhlman  
2nd Best of Event Rhys Puhlmann  
3rd Best of Event Xander Puhlmann

#### **NOVICE**

1st Best of Event Ryan Puhlmann  
2nd Best of Event Jeff Toering

#### **INTERMEDIATE**

1st Best of Event Carmen Steele  
2nd Best of Event Carmen Steele  
3rd Best of Event Carmen Steele

#### **OPEN**

1st Best of Event Wayne Olsen

## **EVENT 2 - SCULPTURE AND CARVING**

### **INTERMEDIATE**

2nd Best of Event Carmen Steele

### **Airbrush Class**

AWCA hosted an Airbrush Basics Class with instructor Bob Steele on [November 26/27](#) at Country Haven Studio. The two-day course gave carvers an opportunity to run their airbrushes through several exercises and culminated in the painting a Green Wing Teal Drake casting.

### **Carving in the Park 2023**

AWCA will be moving away from a "Carving Summer School" with multiple classes to a series of singular week-long carving classes presented throughout the year.

The first class will be held in conjunction with the 2023 Images of Nature Show and Competition [April 29 – May 4th](#) with [Jeff Krete](#) who will be carving and painting a miniature flying King Eider Drake.

The second class, with Instructor [Pat Godin](#), will run [June 6th - June 11th](#). at the Whitecroft Community Hall. Pat will be teaching the participants how to carve and paint a full-size Harlequin Drake. There will be some pre work involved in this class

This is a fantastic opportunity for all AWCA members to improve their carving skills with some highly talented instructors Please check the AWCA website for ongoing [updates](#).

### **Video Class with Tom Christie**

Tom Christie is an accomplished carver who has won a number of world Championships. He has created a series of "How to's" on his YouTube channel and made them available free of charge. In this particular series he is working on a Drake Mallard. Here is a link to one of the early lessons. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymCdhywRLro>